



**Belmont Human Rights Commission Meeting
Belmont Town Hall
December 2, 2010**

Meeting minutes

Members in attendance: Carl Brauer, Chuck Laverty, Paul Solomon, Connie Williams, Fran Yuan

Members absent: Lisa Bernt, Julie Cicalese, Nan Donald,

Liaisons in attendance: Capt. Peter Hoerr (Police Department); Katherine Bonfiglio (Belmont Against Racism) **Other:** John Vercellone

Meeting began at approximately 7:15 p.m.

1. Fran agreed to take notes.
2. November minutes were unanimously accepted.
3. Chuck reported several calls on the HRC phone line from a repeat caller. He also referred a call from a prospective member, with whom Fran spoke. The caller was directed to fill out the volunteer form on the town website and will be contacted thereafter. She was invited to attend this meeting to see what we are about.
4. Fran brought up some of the immigration ideas, including a possible film or an exhibit of Belmont residents' families who immigrated at the turn of the century. One Book, One Belmont has chosen Dark Tides as the town book read, which involves immigrants in the 1920's. Fran and Kathryn have been unable to find an appropriate film.

John brought up the issue of the number of legal and illegal immigrants there are in the US. Carl spoke about immigration policies over the last century and how bias entered into these policies. Earlier, national origin was a major factor through 1965. Now many immigrants are allowed in based on need for them in our work force.

Fran introduced the film Race: The Power of an Illusion. Fran agreed that she would find the film and either bring it for viewing together at a meeting or circulate it among members for viewing. Kathryn recommended the segment on housing in particular. It might be possible to show a segment or series at the library.

5. The meeting with Beech Street Center attendees will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at 12:45 pm. Carl, Paul, Chuck, and Fran thought they would be able to attend. Connie wondered about the agenda for the meeting and including something that might be especially targeted to seniors. What would be the draw? The goal is to inform attendees about the role of the HRC and find out what their concerns related to discrimination might be. Connie wondered if we could respond to whatever needs they brought up.

Showing a film was mentioned. The film Rolling about living with a physical disability was mentioned. Fran also mentioned a segment Janet Wu did many years ago about age discrimination. Fran said she would try to find this segment. She also agreed to speak with Nava, the director at the Beech Street Center, in more depth about what might be appropriate.

Fran also mentioned she is trying to find out when the Belmont Clergy Council or Belmont Religious Council meets so we might be able to speak with that group as well.

6. Kathryn discussed plans for MLK Breakfast. Individuals from Youth Build and Posse/Boston would be the featured speakers. Both are group providing opportunities to youth for successful experiences in a training program and college. She said that HRC members can help by volunteering for set up on the Sunday before the Monday January 17th breakfast or during the event itself.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.